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Edward F. Welsh

MEMORANDUM FOR EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, NATIONAL
AERONAUTICS AND SPACE COUNCIL

SUBJECT: Interagency Handling of Space Vehicle Fragments

I should like to acknowledge with appreciation your 28 November memorandum requesting consideration by the Central Intelligence Agency of the draft documents containing "guidelines" and a "Public Statement" on the subject.

Review of these documents has clearly indicated that the interagency handling of space vehicle fragments is of interest and concern to the United States intelligence community.

Accordingly, this matter has been placed before the United States Intelligence Board (USIB) to develop promptly its coordinated views on the subject documents. USIB action is scheduled for its 12 December meeting, following which the Board's views will be transmitted to you.

(Signed) Marshall S. Carter

MARSHALL S. CARTER
Lieutenant General, USA
Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

cc: Executive Secretary, NSC

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Attachment B
USIB-D-33.6/13
~~4 December 1962~~

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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE COUNCIL
Washington

Executive Secretary

November 28, 1962

MEMORANDUM TO

Lt. General Marshall S. Carter, USA
Central Intelligence Agency

Subject: Interagency Handling of Space Vehicle Fragments

Interested agencies have recognized the need for fixing the responsibility for handling fragments of spacecraft which come into the Government's possession upon their return to earth in this country and abroad.

For this purpose, language for public announcement has been drafted for issuance as an executive order (Tab A) under the auspices of the Space Council staff and concurrences have been received from the Departments of State and Justice, the Atomic Energy Commission, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. The Department of Defense has qualified its concurrence today, making it subject to prior clearance by your Agency.

Similar attention and concurrence, with the same qualification by the Department of Defense, have been given a classified internal document (Tab B) which delineates the circumstances under which NASA will turn over fragments to other agencies for specified action. This draft has also been coordinated with the National Security Council staff and, when approved, will be issued as a National Security Action Memorandum.

It is requested that your Agency give these documents prompt consideration and approval in order that they may be issued without delay. Mr. R. W. Hale of my staff is available to give full information on the development of these documents and will be glad to come out to answer questions if you will call him on Code 113, Extension 2203.

E. C. Welsh

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11/6/62

GUIDELINES
FOR INTERAGENCY HANDLING OF SPACE VEHICLE FRAGMENTS

1. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) is designated as the agency responsible for receiving, analyzing, and identifying any fragments, or suspected fragments of space vehicles of all types, including the contents thereof, which fall upon the territory of the United States or which otherwise come into its possession.
2. NASA will turn over to the Department of Defense (DOD) as expeditiously as possible fragments which are readily identifiable as coming from space vehicles launched by the DOD.
3. To insure prompt analysis for intelligence purposes, NASA will give the DOD and other responsible agencies access, as expeditiously as possible, to fragments which are readily identifiable as coming from space vehicles launched from foreign countries. Such analysis will be completed expeditiously and thereafter such fragments will remain in the custody of NASA, pending final arrangements for their return to the launching country or for other appropriate disposition.
4. All other fragments will be retained by NASA pending agreement as to disposition.
5. NASA may continue to use the Smithsonian Institution for collection and analysis of fragments by contractual arrangements, and may also make appropriate arrangements for assistance with private agencies.
6. The DOD will notify NASA when deorbits are expected and when collection teams have been alerted to obtain the deorbiting fragments. Also, DOD will inform NASA of the results of such collection efforts whether successful or not.
7. The Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) will participate in the analysis of fragments of space vehicles which have utilized or transported, or are suspected of having utilized or transported, radioactive materials or special nuclear materials, and will exercise responsibility for special nuclear materials, in accordance with its statutory responsibility. In addition, the AEC will continue to make available to NASA and the DOD its special scientific capabilities.

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8. The State Department will provide policy guidance with respect to the disposition of fragments from vehicles launched by foreign countries, or made available to the United States by foreign countries.

9. NASA will serve as the focal point for the coordination and release of public information on fragments.

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PUBLIC STATEMENT
ON HANDLING OF SPACE VEHICLE FRAGMENTS

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration is designated as the Government agency responsible for receiving, analyzing, and identifying any fragments or suspected fragments of space vehicles of all types, including the contents thereof, which fall upon the territory of the United States or which otherwise come into its possession.

Fragments identified as coming from vehicles launched by foreign countries will be retained by NASA pending final arrangements for their return to the launching country or for other appropriate disposition.

In performing these functions, NASA will coordinate fully with other Government agencies.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY OFFICIAL ROUTING SLIP					
TO	NAME AND ADDRESS		DATE	INITIALS	
1	DDCI		12/1/62	<i>[Signature]</i>	
2	ER (for dispatch)				
3					
4					
5					
6					
	ACTION		DIRECT REPLY	PREPARE REPLY	
1	APPROVAL		DISPATCH	RECOMMENDATION	
	COMMENT		FILE	RETURN	
	CONCURRENCE		INFORMATION	1	SIGNATURE
Remarks: <p>In view of postponement for a week (at the request of DIA and Air Force) of USIB consideration of your proposal regarding interagency handling of space fragments, I recommend that you sign the attached memorandum for the Executive Secretary, National Aeronautics and Space Council as an interim response to his 28 November memorandum (copy attached).</p> <p>You will note that a copy of this memorandum will be sent to the Executive Secretary, National Security Council--since Dr. Wheelon has reported that NASA is pressing for White House action on this matter.</p>					
FOLD HERE TO RETURN TO SENDER					
FROM: NAME, ADDRESS AND PHONE NO.				DATE	
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